

2 Maccabees



1611 King James Version

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Also read 2 Maccabees in the
1535 Coverdale, 1537
Matthew's, 1539 Taverner's,
1540 Great Bible, 1560
Geneva, 1568 Bishop's, and the
1382 Wycliffe (handwritten in Middle
English) Bible versions.

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1 = 1 The brethren the
Jews that be at
Jerusalem, and in the
land of Judea, wish
unto the brethren the
Jews that are
throughout Egypt
health and peace:

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1:2 God be gracious unto you, and remember his covenant that he made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, his faithful servants;

1:3 And give you all an heart to serve him, and to do his will, with a good courage and a willing mind;

1:4 And open your hearts in his law and

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**commandments, and
send you peace**

1:5 And hear your
prayers, and be at
one with you, and
never forsake you in
time of trouble.

1:6 And now we be
here praying for you.

1:7 What time as
Demetrius reigned, in
the hundred
threescore and ninth
year, we the Jews
wrote unto you in the

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**extremity of trouble
that came upon us in
those years, from the
time that Jason and
his company revolted
from the holy land
and kingdom,**

**1:8 And burned the
porch, and shed
innocent blood: then
we prayed unto the
Lord, and were heard;
we offered also
sacrifices and fine
flour, and lighted the**

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**lamps, and set forth
the loaves.**

1:9 And now see that
ye keep the feast of
tabernacles in the
month Casleu.

1:10 In the hundred
fourscore and eighth
year, the people that
were at Jerusalem
and in Judea, and the
council, and Judas,
sent greeting and
health unto
Aristobulus, king

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**Ptolemeus' master,
who was of the stock
of the anointed
priests, and to the
Jews that were in
Egypt:**

1 = 11 Insomuch as
God hath delivered
us from great perils,
we thank him highly,
as having been in
battle against a king.

1 = 12 For he cast
them out that fought
within the holy city.

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1: 13 For when the leader was come into Persia, and the army with him that seemed invincible, they were slain in the temple of Nanea by the deceit of Nanea's priests.

1: 14 For Antiochus, as though he would marry her, came into the place, and his friends that were with him, to receive money in name of a

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dowry.

1: 15 Which when the priests of Nanea had set forth, and he was entered with a small company into the compass of the temple, they shut the temple as soon as Antiochus was come in.

1: 16 And opening a privy door of the roof, they threw stones like thunderbolts, and

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struck down the captain, hewed them in pieces, smote off their headazs and cast them to those that were without.

1: 17 Blessed be our God in all things, who hath delivered up the ungodly.

1: 18 Therefore whereas we are now purposed to keep the purification of the temple upon the five

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and twentieth day of the month Casleu, we thought it necessary to certify you thereof, that ye also might keep it, as the feast of the tabernacles, and of the fire, which was given us when Neemias offered sacrifice, after that he had builded the temple and the altar.

1 = 19 For when our fathers were led into

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Persia, the priests that were then devout took the fire of the altar privily, and hid it in an hollow place of a pit without water, where they kept it sure, so that the place was unknown to all men.

1:20 Now after many years, when it pleased God, Neemias, being sent from the king of

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**Persia, did send of
the posterity of those
priests that had hid it
to the fire: but when
they told us they
found no fire, but
thick water;**

**1:21 Then
commanded he them
to draw it up, and to
bring it; and when the
sacrifices were laid
on, Neemias
commanded the
priests to sprinkle the**

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wood and the things
laid thereupon with
the water.

1:22 When this was
done, and the time
came that the sun
shone, which afore
was hid in the cloud,
there was a great fire
kindled, so that every
man marvelled.

1:23 And the priests
made a prayer whilst
the sacrifice was
consuming, I say,

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**both the priests, and
all the rest, Jonathan
beginning, and the
rest answering
thereunto, as
Neemias did.**

**1:24 And the prayer
was after this
manner; O Lord, Lord
God, Creator of all
things, who art fearful
and strong, and
righteous, and
merciful, and the only
and gracious King,**

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1:25 The only giver of all things, the only just, almighty, and everlasting, thou that deliverest Israel from all trouble, and didst choose the fathers, and sanctify them:

1:26 Receive the sacrifice for thy whole people Israel, and preserve thine own portion, and sanctify it.

1:27 Gather those

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together that are
scattered from us,
deliver them that
serve among the
heathen, look upon
them that are
despised and
abhorred, and let the
heathen know that
thou art our God.

1=28 Punish them
that oppress us, and
with pride do us
wrong.

1=29 Plant thy people

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again in thy holy place, as Moses hath spoken.

1:30 And the priests sung psalms of thanksgiving.

1:31 Now when the sacrifice was consumed, Neemias commanded the water that was left to be poured on the great stones.

1:32 When this was

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done, there was kindled a flame: but it was consumed by the light that shined from the altar.

1-33 So when this matter was known, it was told the king of Persia, that in the place, where the priests that were led away had hid the fire, there appeared water, and that Neemias had purified the sacrifices

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therewith.

1:34 Then the king, inclosing the place, made it holy, after he had tried the matter.

1:35 And the king took many gifts, and bestowed thereof on those whom he would gratify.

1:36 And Neemias called this thing Naphthar, which is as much as to say, a cleansing: but many

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men call it Nephi.

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2=1 It is also found in the records, that Jeremy the prophet commanded them that were carried away to take of the fire, as it hath been signified:

2=2 And how that the prophet, having given them the law, charged

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**them not to forget
the commandments
of the Lord, and that
they should not err in
their minds, when
they see images of
silver and gold, with
their ornaments.**

**2=3 And with other
such speeches
exhorted he them,
that the law should
not depart from their
hearts.**

2=4 It was also

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contained in the same writing, that the prophet, being warned of God, commanded the tabernacle and the ark to go with him, as he went forth into the mountain, where Moses climbed up, and saw the heritage of God.

2:5 And when Jeremy came thither, he found an hollow cave,

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wherein he laid the
tabernacle, and the
ark, and the altar of
incense, and so
stopped the door.

2:6 And some of
those that followed
him came to mark the
way, but they could
not find it.

2:7 Which when
Jeremy perceived, he
blamed them, saying,
As for that place, it
shall be unknown

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until the time that
God gather his people
again together, and
receive them unto
mercy.

2:8 Then shall the
Lord shew them these
things, and the glory
of the Lord shall
appear, and the cloud
also, as it was
shewed under
Moses, and as when
Solomon desired that
the place might be

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**honourably
sanctified.**

2:9 It was also
declared, that he
being wise offered the
sacrifice of
dedication, and of the
finishing of the
temple.

2:10 And as when
Moses prayed unto
the Lord, the fire
came down from
heaven, and
consumed the

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**sacrifices: even so
prayed Solomon also,
and the fire came
down from heaven,
and consumed the
burnt offerings.**

2: 11 And Moses said,
Because the sin
offering was not to be
eaten, it was
consumed.

2: 12 So Solomon kept
those eight days.

2: 13 The same things
also were reported in

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the writings and commentaries of Neemias; and how he founding a library gathered together the acts of the kings, and the prophets, and of David, and the epistles of the kings concerning the holy gifts.

2=14 In like manner also Judas gathered together all those things that were lost

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by reason of the war
we had, and they
remain with us,

2: 15 Wherefore if ye
have need thereof,
send some to fetch
them unto you.

2: 16 Whereas we then
are about to celebrate
the purification, we
have written unto
you, and ye shall do
well, if ye keep the
same days.

2: 17 We hope also,

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**that the God, that
delivered all his
people, and gave
them all an heritage,
and the kingdom, and
the priesthood, and
the sanctuary,**

2: 18As he promised
in the law, will shortly
have mercy upon us,
and gather us
together out of very
land under heaven
into the holy place:
for he hath delivered

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us out of great troubles, and hath purified the place.

2:19 Now as concerning Judas Maccabeus, and his brethren, and the purification of the great temple, and the dedication of the altar,

2:20 And the wars against Antiochus Epiphanes, and Eupator his son,

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2:21 And the
manifest signs that
came from heaven
unto those that
behaved themselves
manfully to their
honour for Judaism:
so that, being but a
few, they overcame
the whole country,
and chased
barbarous multitudes,
2:22 And recovered
again the temple
renowned all the

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world over, and freed the city, and upheld the laws which were going down, the Lord being gracious unto them with all favour:

2:23 All these things, I say, being declared by Jason of Cyrene in five books, we will assay to abridge in one volume.

2:24 For considering the infinite number, and the difficulty

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**which they find that
desire to look into the
narrations of the
story, for the variety
of the matter,**

**2:25 We have been
careful, that they that
will read may have
delight, and that they
that are desirous to
commit to memory
might have ease, and
that all into whose
hands it comes might
have profit.**

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2:26 Therefore to us,
that have taken upon
us this painful labour
of abridging, it was
not easy, but a matter
of sweat and
watching;

2:27 Even as it is no
ease unto him that
prepareth a banquet,
and seeketh the
benefit of others: yet
for the pleasuring of
many we will

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**undertake gladly this
great pains;**

2:28 Leaving to the
author the exact
handling of every
particular, and
labouring to follow
the rules of an
abridgement.

2:29 For as the
master builder of a
new house must care
for the whole
building; but he that
undertaketh to set it

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out, and paint it, must seek out fit things for the adorning thereof: even so I think it is with us.

2=30 To stand upon every point, and go over things at large, and to be curious in particulars, belongeth to the first author of the story:

2=31 But to use brevity, and avoid much labouring of the

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**work, is to be granted
to him that will make
an abridgment.**

2=32 Here then will
we begin the story:
only adding thus
much to that which
hath been said, that it
is a foolish thing to
make a long
prologue, and to be
short in the story
itself.

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3=1 Now when the
holy city was
inhabited with all
peace, and the laws
were kept very well,
because of the
godliness of Onias
the high priest, and
his hatred of
wickedness,

3=2 It came to pass
that even the kings

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themselves did
honour the place, and
magnify the temple
with their best gifts;

3=3 Insomuch that
Seleucus of Asia of
his own revenues
bare all the costs
belonging to the
service of the
sacrifices.

3=4 But one Simon of
the tribe of Benjamin,
who was made
governor of the

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temple, fell out with the high priest about disorder in the city.

3=5 And when he could not overcome Onias, he gat him to Apollonius the son of Thraseas, who then was governor of Celosyria and Phenice,

3=6 And told him that the treasury in Jerusalem was full of infinite sums of

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money, so that the multitude of their riches, which did not pertain to the account of the sacrifices, was innumerable, and that it was possible to bring all into the king's hand.

3=7 Now when Apollonius came to the king, and had shewed him of the money whereof he was told, the king

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**chose out Heliodorus
his treasurer, and
sent him with a
commandment to
bring him the
foresaid money.**

3=8so forthwith
Heliodorus took his
journey; under a
colour of visiting the
cities of Celosyria
and Phenice, but
indeed to fulfil the
king's purpose.

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3:9 And when he was come to Jerusalem, and had been courteously received of the high priest of the city, he told him what intelligence was given of the money, and declared wherefore he came, and asked if these things were so indeed.

3:10 Then the high priest told him that

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there was such money laid up for the relief of widows and fatherless children:

3: 11 And that some of it belonged to Hircanus son of Tobias, a man of great dignity, and not as that wicked Simon had misinformed: the sum whereof in all was four hundred talents of silver, and two hundred of gold:

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3: 12 And that it was altogether impossible that such wrongs should be done unto them, that had committed it to the holiness of the place, and to the majesty and inviolable sanctity of the temple, honoured over all the world.

3: 13 But Heliodorus, because of the king's commandment given

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him, said, That in any
wise it must be
brought into the
king's treasury

3: 14 So at the day
which he appointed
he entered in to order
this matter:
wherefore there was
no small agony
throughout the whole
city.

3: 15 But the priests,
prostrating
themselves before

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the altar in their
priests' vestments,
called unto heaven
upon him that made a
law concerning
things given to be
kept, that they should
safely be preserved
for such as had
committed them
to be kept.

3: 16 Then whoso had
looked the high priest
in the face, it would
have wounded his

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heart: for his countenance and the changing of his colour declared the inward agony of his mind.

3: 17 For the man was so compassed with fear and horror of the body, that it was manifest to them that looked upon him, what sorrow he had now in his heart.

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3=18 Others ran flocking out of their houses to the general supplication, because the place was like to come into contempt.

3=19 And the women, girt with sackcloth under their breasts, abounded in the streets, and the virgins that were kept in ran, some to the gates, and some to the walls, and others

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looked out of the
windows.

3=20 And all, holding
their hands toward
heaven, made
supplication.

3=21 Then it would
have pitied a man to
see the falling down
of the multitude of all
sorts, and the fear of
the high priest being
in such an agony.

3=22 They then called
upon the Almighty

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Lord to keep the things committed of trust safe and sure for those that had committed them.

3:23 Nevertheless Heliodorus executed that which was decreed.

3:24 Now as he was there present himself with his guard about the treasury, the Lord of spirits, and the Prince of all power,

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caused a great apparition, so that all that presumed to come in with him were astonished at the power of God, and fainted, and were sore afraid.

3=25 For there appeared unto them an horse with a terrible rider upon him, and adorned with a very fair covering, and he ran

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**fiercely, and smote at
Heliodorus with his
forefeet, and it
seemed that he that
sat upon the horse
had complete
harness of gold.**

3=26 Moreover two
other young men
appeared before him,
notable in strength,
excellent in beauty,
and comely in
apparel, who stood
by him on either side;

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and scourged him continually, and gave him many sore stripes.

3:27 And Heliodorus fell suddenly unto the ground, and was compassed with great darkness: but they that were with him took him up, and put him into a litter.

3:28 Thus him, that lately came with a great train and with

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all his guard into the said treasury, they carried out, being unable to help himself with his weapons: and manifestly they acknowledged the power of God.

3=29 For he by the hand of God was cast down, and lay speechless without all hope of life.

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3=30 But they praised the Lord, that had miraculously honoured his own place: for the temple; which a little afore was full of fear and trouble, when the Almighty Lord appeared, was filled with joy and gladness.

3=31 Then straightways certain of Heliodorus' friends

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prayed Onias, that he would call upon the most High to grant him his life, who lay ready to give up the ghost.

3=32 So the high priest, suspecting lest the king should misconceive that some treachery had been done to Heliodorus by the Jews, offered a

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sacrifice for the
health of the man.

3=33 Now as the high
priest was making an
atonement, the same
young men in the
same clothing
appeared and stood
beside Heliodorus,
saying, Give Onias
the high priest great
thanks, insomuch as
for his sake the Lord
hath granted thee life:

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3:34 And seeing that thou hast been scourged from heaven, declare unto all men the mighty power of God. And when they had spoken these words, they appeared no more.

3:35 So Heliodorus, after he had offered sacrifice unto the Lord, and made great vows unto him that

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had saved his life,
and saluted Onias,
returned with his host
to the king.

3:36 Then testified
he to all men the
works of the great
God, which he had
seen with his eyes.

3:37 And when the
king Heliodorus, who
might be a fit man to
be sent yet once
again to Jerusalem,
he said,

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3=38 If thou hast any enemy or traitor, send him thither, and thou shalt receive him well scourged, if he escape with his life: for in that place, no doubt; there is an especial power of God.

3=39 For he that dwelleth in heaven hath his eye on that place, and defendeth it; and he beateth and

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**destroyeth them that
come to hurt it.**

3:40 And the things
concerning
Heliodorus, and the
keeping of the
treasury, fell out on
this sort.

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4: 1 This Simon now,
of whom we spake
afore, having been a
betraye of the
money, and of his
country, slandered
Onias, as if he had
terrified Heliodorus,
and been the worker
of these evils.

4: 2 Thus was he bold
to call him a traitor,

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that had deserved well of the city, and tendered his own nation, and was so zealous of the laws.

4:3 But when their hatred went so far, that by one of Simon's faction murders were committed,

4:4 Onias seeing the danger of this contention, and that Apollonius, as being

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**the governor of
Celosyria and
Phenice, did rage,
and increase Simon's
malice,**

4:5 He went to the
king, not to be an
accuser of his
countrymen, but
seeking the good of
all, both publick and
private:

4:6 For he saw that it
was impossible that
the state should

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**continue quiet, and
Simon leave his folly,
unless the king did
look thereunto.**

**4=7 But after the
death of Seleucus,
when Antiochus,
called Epiphanes,
took the kingdom,
Jason the brother of
Onias laboured
underhand to be high
priest,**

**4=8 Promising unto
the king by**

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**intercession three
hundred and
threescore talents of
silver, and of another
revenue eighty
talents:**

4:9 **Beside this, he
promised to assign
an hundred and fifty
more, if he might
have licence to set
him up a place for
exercise, and for the
training up of youth
in the fashions of the**

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heathen, and to write them of Jerusalem by the name of Antiochians.

4: 10 Which when the king had granted, and he had gotten into his hand the rule he forthwith brought his own nation to Greekish fashion.

4: 11 And the royal privileges granted of special favour to the Jews by the means of

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John the father of Eupolemus, who went ambassador to Rome for amity and aid, he took away; and putting down the governments which were according to the law, he brought up new customs against the law:

4: 12 For he built gladly a place of exercise under the tower itself, and

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brought the chief young men under his subjection, and made them wear a hat.

4: 13 Now such was the height of Greek fashions, and increase of heathenish manners, through the exceeding profaneness of Jason, that ungodly wretch, and no high priest;

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4: 14 That the priests had no courage to serve any more at the altar, but despising the temple, and neglecting the sacrifices, hastened to be partakers of the unlawful allowance in the place of exercise, after the game of Discus called them forth;

4: 15 Not setting by the honours of their

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**fathers, but liking the
glory of the Grecians
best of all.**

4: 16 By reason
whereof sore
calamity came upon
them: for they had
them to be their
enemies and
avengers, whose
custom they followed
so earnestly, and
unto whom they
desired to be like in
all things.

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4: 17 For it is not a light thing to do wickedly against the laws of God: but the time following shall declare these things.

4: 18 Now when the game that was used every faith year was kept at Tyrus, the king being present,

4: 19 This ungracious Jason sent special messengers from Jerusalem, who were

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Antiochians, to carry three hundred drachms of silver to the sacrifice of Hercules, which even the bearers thereof thought fit not to bestow upon the sacrifice, because it was not convenient, but to be reserved for other charges.

4:20 This money then, in regard of the sender, was

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appointed to
Hercules' sacrifice;
but because of the
bearers thereof, it
was employed to the
making of gallies.

4:21 Now when
Apollonius the son of
Menestheus was sent
into Egypt for the
coronation of king
Ptolemeus
Philometor,
Antiochus,
understanding him

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not to be well
affected to his affairs,
provided for his own
safety: whereupon he
came to Joppa, and
from thence to
Jerusalem:

4:22 Where he was
honourably received
of Jason, and of the
city, and was brought
in with torch alight,
and with great
shoutings: and so
afterward went with

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his host unto
Phenice.

4:23 Three years
afterward Jason sent
Menelaus, the
aforesaid Simon's
brother, to bear the
money unto the king,
and to put him in
mind of certain
necessary matters.

4:24 But he being
brought to the
presence of the king,
when he had

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magnified him for the glorious appearance of his power, got the priesthood to himself, offering more than Jason by three hundred talents of silver.

4:25 So he came with the king's mandate, bringing nothing worthy the high priesthood, but having the fury of a cruel tyrant, and the

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rage of a savage
beast.

4:26 Then Jason,
who had undermined
his own brother,
being undermined by
another, was
compelled to flee into
the country of the
Ammonites.

4:27 So Menelaus
got the principality:
but as for the money
that he had promised
unto the king, he took

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no good order for it,
albeit Sostratis the
ruler of the castle
required it:

4:28 For unto him
appertained the
gathering of the
customs. Wherefore
they were both called
before the king.

4:29 Now Menelaus
left his brother
Lysimachus in his
stead in the
priesthood; and

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**Sostratus left Crates,
who was governor of
the Cyprians.**

4:30 While those
things were in doing,
they of Tarsus and
Mallos made
insurrection, because
they were given to
the king's concubine,
called Antiochus.

4:31 Then came the
king in all haste to
appease matters,
leaving Andronicus, a

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**man in authority, for
his deputy.**

4:32 Now Menelaus,
supposing that he
had gotten a
convenient time,
stole certain vessels
of gold out of the
temple, and gave
some of them to
Andronicus, and
some he sold into
Tyrus and the cities
round about.

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4:33 Which when Onias knew of a surety, he reprov'd him, and withdrew himself into a sanctuary at Daphne, that lieth by Antiochia.

4:34 Wherefore Menelaus, taking Andronicus apart, pray'd, him to get Onias into his hands; who being persuaded thereunto, and

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coming to Onias in deceit, gave him his right hand with oaths; and though he were suspected by him, yet persuaded he him to come forth of the sanctuary: whom forthwith he shut up without regard of justice.

4:35 For the which cause not only the Jews, but many also of other nations, took

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**great indignation, and
were much grieved
for the unjust murder
of the man.**

4:36 And when the
king was come again
from the places about
Cilicia, the Jews that
were in the city, and
certain of the Greeks
that abhorred the fact
also, complained
because Onias was
slain without cause.

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4:37 Therefore Antiochus was heartily sorry, and moved to pity, and wept, because of the sober and modest behaviour of him that was dead.

4:38 And being kindled with anger, forthwith he took away Andronicus his purple, and rent off his clothes, and leading him through

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**the whole city unto
that very place, where
he had committed
impiety against
Onias, there slew he
the cursed murderer.**

**Thus the Lord
rewarded him his
punishment, as he
had deserved.**

**4=39 Now when
many sacrileges had
been committed in
the city by
Lysimachus with the**

2 MACCABEES

**consent of Menelaus,
and the fruit thereof
was spread abroad,
the multitude
gathered themselves
together against
Lysimachus, many
vessels of gold being
already carried away.**

**4:40 Whereupon the
common people
rising, and being
filled with rage,
Lysimachus armed
about three thousand**

2 MACCABEES

men, and began first to offer violence; one Auranus being the leader, a man far gone in years, and no less in folly.

4:41 They then seeing the attempt of Lysimachus, some of them caught stones, some clubs, others taking handfuls of dust, that was next at hand, cast them all together upon

2 MACCABEES

**Lysimachus, and
those that set upon
them.**

4:42 Thus many of
them they wounded,
and some they struck
to the ground, and all
of them they forced
to flee: but as for the
churchrobber
himself, him they
killed beside the
treasury.

4:43 Of these
matters therefore

2 MACCABEES

**there was an
accusation laid
against Menelaus.**

4:44 Now when the
king came to Tyrus,
three men that were
sent from the senate
pleaded the cause
before him:

4:45 But Menelaus,
being now convicted,
promised Ptolemee
the son of
Dorymenes to give
him much money, if

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he would pacify the king toward him.

4:46 whereupon Ptolemee taking the king aside into a certain gallery, as it were to take the air, brought him to be of another mind:

4:47 Insomuch that he discharged Menelaus from the accusations, who notwithstanding was cause of all the

2 MACCABEES

mischief: and those poor men, who, if they had told their cause, yea, before the Scythians, should have been judged innocent, them he condemned to death.

4:48 Thus they that followed the matter for the city, and for the people, and for the holy vessels, did soon suffer unjust punishment.

2 MACCABEES

4:49 Wherefore even they of Tyrus, moved with hatred of that wicked deed, caused them to be honourably buried.

4:50 And so through the covetousness of them that were of power Menelaus remained still in authority, increasing in malice, and being a great traitor to the citizens.

2 Maccabees 5

5: 1 About the same time Antiochus prepared his second voyage into Egypt:

5: 2 And then it happened, that through all the city, for the space almost of forty days, there were seen horsemen running in the air, in cloth of gold, and

2 MACCABEES

armed with lances,
like a band of
soldiers,

5=3 And troops of
horsemen in array,
encountering and
running one against
another, with shaking
of shields, and
multitude of pikes,
and drawing of
swords, and casting
of darts, and glittering
of golden ornaments,

2 MACCABEES

and harness of all
sorts.

5=4 Wherefore every
man prayed that that
apparition might turn
to good.

5=5 Now when there
was gone forth a false
rumour, as though
Antiochus had been
dead, Jason took at
the least a thousand
men, and suddenly
made an assault upon
the city; and they that

2 MACCABEES

**were upon the walls
being put back, and
the city at length
taken, Menelaus fled
into the castle:**

**5:6 But Jason slew
his own citizens
without mercy, not
considering that to
get the day of them of
his own nation would
be a most unhappy
day for him; but
thinking they had
been his enemies,**

2 MACCABEES

and not his
countrymen, whom
he conquered.

5:7 Howbeit for all
this he obtained not
the principality, but at
the last received
shame for the reward
of his treason, and
fled again into the
country of the
Ammonites.

5:8 In the end
therefore he had an
unhappy return, being

2 MACCABEES

accused before
Aretas the king of the
Arabians, fleeing from
city to city, pursued
of all men, hated as a
forsaker of the laws,
and being had in
abomination as an
open enemy of his
country and
countrymen, he was
cast out into Egypt.

5:9 Thus he that had
driven many out of
their country perished

2 MACCABEES

in a strange land,
retiring to the
Lacedemonians, and
thinking there to find
succour by reason of
his kindred:

5: 10 And he that had
cast out many
unburied had none to
mourn for him, nor
any solemn funerals
at all, nor sepulchre
with his fathers.

5: 11 Now when this
that was done came

2 MACCABEES

to the king's car, he
thought that Judea
had revolted:
whereupon removing
out of Egypt in a
furious mind, he took
the city by force of
arms,

5: 12 And commanded
his men of war not to
spare such as they
met, and to slay such
as went up upon the
houses.

2 MACCABEES

5: 13 Thus there was killing of young and old, making away of men, women, and children, slaying of virgins and infants.

5: 14 And there were destroyed within the space of three whole days fourscore thousand, whereof forty thousand were slain in the conflict; and no fewer sold than slain.

2 MACCABEES

5: 15 Yet was he not content with this, but presumed to go into the most holy temple of all the world; Menelaus, that traitor to the laws, and to his own country, being his guide:

5: 16 And taking the holy vessels with polluted hands, and with profane hands pulling down the things that were

2 MACCABEES

dedicated by other
kings to the
augmentation and
glory and honour of
the place, he gave
them away.

5: 17 And so haughty
was Antiochus in
mind, that he
considered not that
the Lord was angry
for a while for the
sins of them that
dwelt in the city, and

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therefore his eye was
not upon the place.

5=18 For had they not
been formerly
wrapped in many
sins, this man, as
soon as he had come,
had forthwith been
scourged, and put
back from his
presumption, as
Heliodorus was,
whom Seleucus the
king sent to view the
treasury.

2 MACCABEES

5: 19 Nevertheless
God did not choose
the people for the
place's sake, but the
place for the people's
sake.

5: 20 And therefore
the place itself, that
was partaker with
them of the adversity
that happened to the
nation, did afterward
communicate in the
benefits sent from the
Lord: and as it was

2 MACCABEES

**forsaken in the wrath
of the Almighty, so
again, the great Lord
being reconciled, it
was set up with all
glory.**

5:21 So when
Antiochus had carried
out of the temple a
thousand and eight
hundred talents, he
departed in all haste
unto Antiochia,
weening in his pride
to make the land

2 MACCABEES

navigable, and the sea passable by foot: such was the haughtiness of his mind.

5:22 And he left governors to vex the nation: at Jerusalem, Philip, for his country a Phrygian, and for manners more barbarous than he that set him there;

5:23 And at Garizim, Andronicus; and

2 MACCABEES

besides, Menelaus,
who worse than all
the rest bare an heavy
hand over the
citizens, having a
malicious mind
against his
countrymen the Jews.

5:24 He sent also that
detestable ringleader
Apollonius with an
army of two and
twenty thousand,
commanding him to
slay all those that

2 MACCABEES

were in their best age,
and to sell the women
and the younger sort:

5=25 Who coming to
Jerusalem, and
pretending peace, did
forbear till the holy
day of the sabbath,
when taking the Jews
keeping holy day, he
commanded his men
to arm themselves.

5=26 And so he slew
all them that were
gone to the

2 MACCABEES

**celebrating of the
sabbath, and running
through the city with
weapons slew great
multitudes.**

5:27 But Judas
Maccabeus with nine
others,
or thereabout,
withdrew himself into
the wilderness, and
lived
in the mountains
after the manner of
beasts, with his

2 MACCABEES

**company, who fed on
herbs continually,
lest they should
be partakers of
the pollution.**

2 MACCABEES 6

6=1 Not long after this the king sent an old man of Athens to compel the Jews to depart from the laws of their fathers, and not to live after the laws of God:

6=2 And to pollute also the temple in Jerusalem, and to call it the temple of

2 MACCABEES

Jupiter Olympius; and that in Garizim, of Jupiter the Defender of strangers, as they did desire that dwelt in the place.

6=3 The coming in of this mischief was sore and grievous to the people:

6=4 For the temple was filled with riot and revelling by the Gentiles, who dallied with harlots, and had

2 MACCABEES

to do with women within the circuit of the holy places, and besides that brought in things that were not lawful.

6=5 The altar also was filled with profane things, which the law forbiddeth.

6=6 Neither was it lawful for a man to keep sabbath days or ancient fasts, or to profess himself at all

2 MACCABEES

to be a Jew.

6=7 And in the day
of the king's birth
every month they
were brought by
bitter constraint to
eat of the sacrifices;
and when the fast of
Bacchus was kept,
the Jews were
compelled to go
in procession to
Bacchus,
carrying ivy.

6=8 Moreover there

2 MACCABEES

went out a decree to the neighbour cities of the heathen, by the suggestion of Ptolemee, against the Jews, that they should observe the same fashions, and be partakers of their sacrifices:

6=9 And whoso would not conform themselves to the manners of the Gentiles should be

2 MACCABEES

**put to death. Then
might a man have
seen the present
misery.**

**6: 10 For there were
two women brought,
who had circumcised
their children; whom
when they had openly
led round about the
city, the babes
hanging at their
breasts, they cast
them down headlong
from the wall.**

2 MACCABEES

6= 11 And others, that had run together into caves near by, to keep the sabbath day secretly, being discovered by Philip, were all burnt together, because they made a conscience to help themselves for the honour of the most sacred day.

6= 12 Now I beseech those that read this

2 MACCABEES

book, that they be not discouraged for these calamities, but that they judge those punishments not to be for destruction, but for a chastening of our nation.

6: 13 For it is a token of his great goodness, when wicked doers are not suffered any long time, but forthwith punished.

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6: 14 For not as with other nations, whom the Lord patiently forbearereth to punish, till they be come to the fulness of their sins, so dealeth he with us,

6: 15 Lest that, being come to the height of sin, afterwards he should take vengeance of us.

6: 16 And therefore he never withdraweth

2 MACCABEES

his mercy from us:
and though he punish
with adversity, yet
doth he never forsake
his people.

6= 17 But let this that
we at spoken be for a
warning unto us. And
now will we come to
the declaring of the
matter in a few words.

6= 18 Eleazar, one of
the principal scribes,
an aged man, and of a
well favoured

2 MACCABEES

countenance, was
constrained to open
his mouth, and to eat
swine's flesh.

6=19 But he,
choosing rather to die
gloriously, than to
live stained with such
an abomination, spit
it forth, and came of
his own accord to the
torment,

6=20 As it behoved
them to come, that
are resolute to stand

2 MACCABEES

out against such things, as are not lawful for love of life to be tasted.

6=21 But they that had the charge of that wicked feast, for the old acquaintance they had with the man, taking him aside, besought him to bring flesh of his own provision, such as was lawful for him to use, and make as if

2 MACCABEES

he did eat of the flesh
taken from the
sacrifice commanded
by the king;

6=22 That in so
doing he might be
delivered from death,
and for the old
friendship with them
find favour.

6=23 But he began to
consider discreetly,
and as became his
age, and the
excellency of his

2 MACCABEES

ancient years, and the
honour of his gray
head, whereon was
come, and his most
honest education
from a child, or rather
the holy law made
and given by God:
therefore he
answered
accordingly, and
willed them
straightways to send
him to the grave.

6=24 For it becometh

2 MACCABEES

not our age, said he,
in any wise to
dissemble, whereby
many young persons
might think that
Eleazar, being
fourscore years old
and ten, were now
gone to a strange
religion;

6=25 And so they
through mine
hypocrisy, and desire
to live a little time and
a moment longer,

2 MACCABEES

should be deceived
by me, and I get a
stain to mine old age,
and make it
abominable.

6=26 For though for
the present time I
should be delivered
from the punishment
of men: yet should I
not escape the hand
of the Almighty,
neither alive,
nor dead.

6=27 Wherefore now,

2 MACCABEES

**manfully changing
this life, I will shew
myself such an one
as mine age
requireth,**

**6=28 And leave a
notable example to
such as be young to
die willingly and
courageously for the
honourable and holy
laws. And when he
had said these words,
immediately he went
to the torment:**

2 MACCABEES

6=29 They that led him changing the good will they bare him a little before into hatred, because the foresaid speeches proceeded, as they thought, from a desperate mind.

6=30 But when he was ready to die with stripes, he groaned, and said, It is manifest unto the Lord, that hath the

2 MACCABEES

holy knowledge, that whereas I might have been delivered from death, I now endure sore pains in body by being beaten: but in soul am well content to suffer these things, because I fear him.

6=31 And thus this man died, leaving his death for an example of a noble courage, and a memorial of virtue, not only unto

2 MACCABEES

**young men, but unto
all his nation.**

2 MACCABEES 7

7:1 It came to pass also, that seven brethren with their mother were taken, and compelled by the king against the law to taste swine's flesh, and were tormented with scourges and whips.

7:2 But one of them that spake first said

2 MACCABEES

**thus, What wouldest
thou ask or learn of
us? we are ready to
die, rather than to
transgress the laws of
our fathers.**

7:3 Then the king,
being in a rage,
commanded pans and
caldrons to be made
hot:

7:4 Which forthwith
being heated, he
commanded to cut
out the tongue of him

2 MACCABEES

that spake first, and
to cut off the utmost
parts of his body, the
rest of his brethren
and his mother
looking on.

7:5 Now when he was
thus maimed in all his
members, he
commanded him
being yet alive to be
brought to the fire,
and to be fried in the
pan: and as the
vapour of the pan was

2 MACCABEES

**for a good space
dispersed, they
exhorted one another
with the mother to die
manfully, saying thus,**

**7:6 The Lord God
looketh upon us, and
in truth hath comfort
in us, as Moses in his
song, which
witnessed to their
faces, declared,
saying, And he shall
be comforted in his
servants.**

2 MACCABEES

7:7 So when the first was dead after this number, they brought the second to make him a mocking stock: and when they had pulled off the skin of his head with the hair, they asked him, Wilt thou eat, before thou be punished throughout every member of thy body?

7:8 But he answered in his own language,

2 MACCABEES

and said, No.
Wherefore he also
received the next
torment in order, as
the former did.

7:9 And when he was
at the last gasp, he
said, Thou like a fury
takest us out of this
present life, but the
King of the world
shall raise us up, who
have died for his
laws, unto everlasting
life.

2 MACCABEES

7: 10 After him was the third made a mocking stock: and when he was required, he put out his tongue, and that right soon, holding forth his hands manfully.

7: 11 And said courageously, These I had from heaven; and for his laws I despise them; and from him I hope to receive them

2 MACCABEES

again.

7: 12 Insomuch that the king, and they that were with him, marvelled at the young man's courage, for that he nothing regarded the pains.

7: 13 Now when this man was dead also, they tormented and mangled the fourth in like manner.

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7:14 So when
he was ready
to die he said
thus, It is
good, being
put to death
by men, to
look for hope
from God to
be raised up
again by him:

2 MACCABEES

**as for thee,
thou shalt
have no
resurrection
to life.**

7: 15 Afterward they brought the fifth also, and mangled him.

7: 16 Then looked he unto the king, and said, Thou hast power over men, thou art corruptible, thou

2 MACCABEES

doest what thou wilt;
yet think not that our
nation is forsaken of
God;

7: 17 But abide a
while, and behold his
great power, how he
will torment thee and
thy seed.

7: 18 After him also
they brought the
sixth, who being
ready to die said, Be
not deceived without
cause: for we suffer

2 MACCABEES

**these things for
ourselves, having
sinned against our
God: therefore
marvellous things are
done unto us.**

**7: 19 But think not
thou, that takest in
hand to strive against
God, that thou shalt
escape unpunished.**

**7: 20 But the mother
was marvellous
above all, and worthy
of honourable**

2 MACCABEES

memory: for when she saw her seven sons slain within the space of one day, she bare it with a good courage, because of the hope that she had in the Lord.

7:21 Yea, she exhorted every one of them in her own language, filled with courageous spirits; and stirring up her womanish thoughts

2 MACCABEES

with a manly
stomach, she said
unto them,

7:22 I cannot tell how
ye came into my
womb: for I neither
gave you breath nor
life, neither was it I
that formed the
members of every
one of you;

7:23 But doubtless
the Creator of the
world, who formed the
generation of man,

2 MACCABEES

and found out the
beginning of all
things,
will also of his own
mercy give you
breath and life
again, as ye now
regard not
your own selves for
his laws' sake.

7:24 Now Antiochus,
thinking himself
despised, and
suspecting it to be a
reproachful speech,

2 MACCABEES

whilst the youngest was yet alive, did not only exhort him by words, but also assured him with oaths, that he would make him both a rich and a happy man, if he would turn from the laws of his fathers; and that also he would take him for his friend, and trust him with affairs.

7:25 But when the

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young man would in
no case hearken unto
him, the king called
his mother, and
exhorted her that she
would counsel the
young man to save
his life.

7:26 And when he
had exhorted her with
many words, she
promised him that
she would counsel
her son.

7:27 But she bowing

2 MACCABEES

herself toward him,
laughing the cruel
tyrant to scorn, spake
in her country
language on this
manner; O my son,
have pity upon me
that bare thee nine
months in my womb,
and gave thee such
three years, and
nourished thee, and
brought thee up unto
this age, and endured
the troubles of

2 MACCABEES

education.

7:28 I beseech thee,
my son, look upon
the heaven and the
earth, and all that is
therein, and consider
that God made them
of things that were
not; and so was
mankind made
likewise.

7:29 Fear not this
tormentor, but, being
worthy of thy
brethren, take thy

2 MACCABEES

**death that I may
receive thee again in
mercy with thy
brethren.**

7:30 **Whiles she was
yet speaking these
words, the young
man said, Whom wait
ye for? I will not obey
the king's
commandment: but I
will obey the
commandment of the
law that was given
unto our fathers by**

2 MACCABEES

Moses.

7:31 And thou, that hast been the author of all mischief against the Hebrews, shalt not escape the hands of God.

7:32 For we suffer because of our sins.

7:33 And though the living Lord be angry with us a little while for our chastening and correction, yet shall he be at one

2 MACCABEES

again with his
servants.

7:34 But thou, O
godless man, and of
all other most wicked,
be not lifted up
without a cause, nor
puffed up with
uncertain hopes,
lifting up thy hand
against the servants
of God:

7:35 For thou hast
not yet escaped the
judgment of Almighty

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God, who seeth all things.

7:36 For our brethren, who now have suffered a short pain, are dead under God's covenant of everlasting life: but thou, through the judgment of God, shalt receive just punishment for thy pride.

7:37 But I, as my brethren, offer up my

2 MACCABEES

**body and life for the
laws of our fathers,
beseeching God that
he would speedily be
merciful unto our
nation; and that thou
by torments and
plagues mayest
confess, that he alone
is God;**

7:38 **And that in me
and my brethren the
wrath of the Almighty,
which is justly
brought upon our**

2 MACCABEES

nation, may cease.

7:39 Than the king' being in a rage, handed him worse than all the rest, and took it grievously that he was mocked.

7:40 So this man died undefiled, and put his whole trust in the Lord.

7:41 Last of all after the sons the mother died.

7:42 Let this be

2 MACCABEES

**enough now to have
spoken concerning
the idolatrous feasts,
and the extreme
tortures.**

2 MACCABEES 8

8: 1 Then Judas Maccabeus, and they that were with him, went privily into the towns, and called their kinsfolks together, and took unto them all such as continued in the Jews' religion, and assembled about six thousand men.

2 MACCABEES

8=2 And they called upon the Lord, that he would look upon the people that was trodden down of all; and also pity the temple profaned of ungodly men;

8=3 And that he would have compassion upon the city, sore defaced, and ready to be made even with the ground; and hear the blood that cried

2 MACCABEES

unto him,

8=4 And remember
the wicked slaughter
of harmless infants,
and the blasphemies
committed against
his name; and that he
would shew his
hatred against the
wicked.

8=5 Now when
Maccabeus had his
company about him,
he could not be
withstood by the

2 MACCABEES

heathen: for the wrath of the Lord was turned into mercy.

8=6 Therefore he came at unawares, and burnt up towns and cities, and got into his hands the most commodious places, and overcame and put to flight no small number of his enemies.

8=7 But specially took he advantage of the

2 MACCABEES

night for such privy attempts, insomuch that the fruit of his holiness was spread every where.

8=8 So when Philip saw that this man increased by little and little, and that things prospered with him still more and more, he wrote unto Ptolemeus, the governor of Celosyria and Phenice, to yield

2 MACCABEES

more aid to the king's affairs.

8=9 Then forthwith choosing Nicanor the son of Patroclus, one of his special friends, he sent him with no fewer than twenty thousand of all nations under him, to root out the whole generation of the Jews; and with him he joined also Gorgias a captain,

2 MACCABEES

who in matters of war had great experience.

8= 10 So Nicanor undertook to make so much money of the captive Jews, as should defray the tribute of two thousand talents, which the king was to pay to the Romans.

8= 11 Wherefore immediately he sent to the cities upon the sea coast,

2 MACCABEES

proclaiming a sale of
the captive Jews, and
promising that they
should have
fourscore and ten
bodies for one talent,
not expecting the
vengeance that was
to follow upon him
from the Almighty
God.

8: **12** Now when word
was brought unto
Judas of Nicanor's
coming, and he had

2 MACCABEES

imparted unto those
that were with him
that the army was at
hand,

8: 13 They that were
fearful, and
distrusted the justice
of God, fled, and
conveyed themselves
away.

8: 14 Others sold all
that they had left, and
withal besought the
Lord to deliver them,
sold by the wicked

2 MACCABEES

**Nicanor before they
met together:**

8: 15 And if not for
their own sakes, yet
for the covenants he
had made with their
fathers, and for his
holy and glorious
name's sake, by
which they were
called.

8: 16 So Maccabeus
called his men
together unto the
number of six

2 MACCABEES

thousand, and
exhorted them not to
be stricken with
terror of the enemy,
nor to fear the great
multitude of the
heathen, who came
wrongly against
them; but to fight
manfully,

8: 17 And to set
before their eyes the
injury that they had
unjustly done to the
holy place, and the

2 MACCABEES

cruel handling of the city, whereof they made a mockery, and also the taking away of the government of their forefathers:

8: 18 For they, said he, trust in their weapons and boldness; but our confidence is in the Almighty who at a beck can cast down both them that come against us, and also

2 MACCABEES

all the world.

8=19 Moreover, he recounted unto them what helps their forefathers had found, and how they were delivered, when under Sennacherib an hundred fourscore and five thousand perished.

8=20 And he told them of the battle that they had in Babylon with the Galatians,

2 MACCABEES

**how they came but
eight thousand in all
to the business, with
four thousand
Macedonians, and
that the Macedonians
being perplexed, the
eight thousand
destroyed an
hundred and twenty
thousand because of
the help that they had
from heaven, and so
received a great
booty.**

2 MACCABEES

8:21 Thus when he had made them bold with these words, and ready to die for the law and the country, he divided his army into four parts;

8:22 And joined with himself his own brethren, leaders of each band, to wit Simon, and Joseph, and Jonathan, giving each one fifteen hundred men.

2 MACCABEES

8:23 Also he appointed Eleazar to read the holy book: and when he had given them this watchword, The help of God; himself leading the first band,
8:24 And by the help of the Almighty they slew above nine thousand of their enemies, and wounded and maimed the most part

2 MACCABEES

of Nicanor's host, and
so put all to flight;

8=25 And took their
money that came to
buy them, and
pursued them far: but
lacking time they
returned:

8=26 For it was the
day before the
sabbath, and
therefore they would
no longer pursue
them.

8=27 So when they

2 MACCABEES

**had gathered their
armour together, and
spoiled their
enemies, they
occupied themselves
about the sabbath,
yielding exceeding
praise and thanks to
the Lord, who had
preserved them unto
that day, which was
the beginning of
mercy distilling upon
them.**

8=28 And after the

2 MACCABEES

sabbath, when they had given part of the spoils to the maimed, and the widows, and orphans, the residue they divided among themselves and their servants.

8=29 When this was done, and they had made a common supplication, they besought the merciful Lord to be reconciled with his servants for

2 MACCABEES

ever.

8=30 Moreover of those that were with Timotheus and Bacchides, who fought against them, they slew above twenty thousand, and very easily got high and strong holds, and divided among themselves many spoils more, and made the maimed, orphans, widows,

2 MACCABEES

yea, and the aged
also, equal in spoils
with themselves.

8=31 And when they
had gathered their
armour together, they
laid them up all
carefully in
convenient places,
and the remnant of
the spoils they
brought to
Jerusalem.

8=32 They slew also
Philarches, that

2 MACCABEES

wicked person, who was with Timotheus, and had annoyed the Jews many ways.

8=33 Furthermore at such time as they kept the feast for the victory in their country they burnt Callisthenes, that had set fire upon the holy gates, who had fled into a little house; and so he received a

2 MACCABEES

reward meet for his wickedness.

8=34 As for that most ungracious Nicanor, who had brought a thousand merchants to buy the Jews,

8=35 He was through the help of the Lord brought down by them, of whom he made least account; and putting off his glorious apparel, and discharging his

2 MACCABEES

company, he came like a fugitive servant through the midland unto Antioch having very great dishonour, for that his host was destroyed.

8=36 Thus he, that took upon him to make good to the Romans their tribute by means of captives in Jerusalem, told abroad, that the Jews had God to fight for

2 MACCABEES

**them, and therefore
they could not be
hurt, because they
followed the laws that
he gave them.**

2 MACCABEES 9

9=1 About that time came Antiochus with dishonour out of the country of Persia.

9=2 For he had entered the city called Persepolis, and went about to rob the temple, and to hold the city; whereupon the multitude running to defend themselves

2 MACCABEES

**with their weapons,
put them to flight, and
so it happened that
Antiochus being put
to flight of the
inhabitants returned
with shame.**

9=3 Now when he
came to Ecbatane,
news was brought
him what had
happened unto
Nicanor and
Timotheus.

9=4 Then swelling

2 MACCABEES

**with anger. he
thought to avenge
upon the Jews the
disgrace done unto
him by those that
made him flee.**

**Therefore
commanded he his
chariotman to drive
without ceasing, and
to dispatch the
journey, the judgment
of God now following
him. For he had
spoken proudly in**

2 MACCABEES

**this sort, That he
would come to
Jerusalem and make
it a common burying
place of the Jews.**

**9=5 But the Lord
Almighty, the God of
Isreal, smote him with
an incurable and
invisible plague: or as
soon as he had
spoken these words,
a pain of the bowels
that was remediless
came upon him, and**

2 MACCABEES

sore torments of the
inner parts;

9=6 And that most
justly: for he had
tormented other
men's bowels with
many and strange
torments.

9=7 Howbeit he
nothing at all ceased
from his bragging,
but still was filled
with pride, breathing
out fire in his rage
against the Jews, and

2 MACCABEES

**commanding to haste
the journey: but it
came to pass that he
fell down from his
chariot, carried
violently; so that
having a sore fall, all
the members of his
body were much
pained.**

**9=8 And thus he that a
little afore thought he
might command the
waves of the sea, (so
proud was he beyond**

2 MACCABEES

**the condition of man)
and weigh the high
mountains in a
balance, was now
cast on the ground,
and carried in an
horselitter, shewing
forth unto all the
manifest power of
God.**

**9=9 So that the worms
rose up out of the
body of this wicked
man, and whiles he
lived in sorrow and**

2 MACCABEES

pain, his flesh fell away, and the filthiness of his smell was noisome to all his army.

9=10 And the man, that thought a little afore he could reach to the stars of heaven, no man could endure to carry for his intolerable stink.

9=11 Here therefore, being plagued, he began to leave off his

2 MACCABEES

great pride, and to
come to the
knowledge of himself
by the scourge of
God, his pain
increasing every
moment.

9: 12 And when he
himself could not
abide his own smell,
he said these words,
It is meet to be
subject unto God, and
that a man that is
mortal should not

2 MACCABEES

proudly think of
himself if he were
God.

9: 13 This wicked
person vowed also
unto the Lord, who
now no more would
have mercy upon him,
saying thus,

9: 14 That the holy
city (to the which he
was going in haste to
lay it even with the
ground, and to make
it a common

2 MACCABEES

buryingplace,) he
would set at liberty:
9=15 And as touching
the Jews, whom he
had judged not
worthy so much as to
be buried, but to be
cast out with their
children to be
devoured of the fowls
and wild beasts, he
would make them all
equals to the citizens
of Athens:
9=16 And the holy

2 MACCABEES

temple, which before
he had spoiled, he
would garnish with
goodly gifts, and
restore all the holy
vessels with many
more, and out of his
own revenue defray
the charges
belonging to the
sacrifices:

9=17 Yea, and that
also he would
become a Jew
himself, and go

2 MACCABEES

**through all the world
that was inhabited,
and declare the power
of God.**

9=18 But for all this
his pains would not
cease: for the just
judgment of God was
come upon him:
therefore despairing
of his health, he wrote
unto the Jews the
letter underwritten,
containing the form of
a supplication, after

2 MACCABEES

this manner:

9=19 Antiochus, king and governor, to the good Jews his citizens wisheth much joy, health, and prosperity:

9=20 If ye and your children fare well, and your affairs be to your contentment, I give very great thanks to God, having my hope in heaven.

9=21 As for me, I was

2 MACCABEES

**weak, or else I would
have remembered
kindly your honour
and good will
returning out of
Persia, and being
taken with a grievous
disease, I thought it
necessary to care for
the common safety of
all:**

**9=22 Not distrusting
mine health, but
having great hope to
escape this sickness.**

2 MACCABEES

9:23 But considering that even my father, at what time he led an army into the high countries. appointed a successor,

9:24 To the end that, if any thing fell out contrary to expectation, or if any tidings were brought that were grievous, they of the land, knowing to whom the state was left, might

2 MACCABEES

not be troubled:

9=25 Again,
considering how that
the princes that are
borderers and
neighbours unto my
kingdom wait for
opportunities, and
expect what shall be
the event. I have
appointed my son
Antiochus king,
whom I often
committed and
commended unto

2 MACCABEES

many of you, when I
went up into the high
provinces; to whom I
have written as
followeth:

9:26 Therefore I pray
and request you to
remember the
benefits that I have
done unto you
generally, and in
special, and that
every man will be still
faithful to me and my
son.

2 MACCABEES

9=27 For I am persuaded that he understanding my mind will favourably and graciously yield to your desires.

9=28 Thus the murderer and blasphemer having suffered most grievously, as he entreated other men, so died he a miserable death in a

2 MACCABEES

**strange country in the
mountains.**

**9=29 And Philip, that
was brought up with
him, carried away his
body, who also
fearing the son of
Antiochus went into
Egypt to Ptolemeus
Philometor.**

2 MACCABEES 10

10=1 Now Maccabeus and his company, the Lord guiding them, recovered the temple and the city:

10=2 But the altars which the heathen had built in the open street, and also the chapels, they pulled down.

10=3 And having

2 MACCABEES

cleansed the temple
they made another
altar, and striking
stones they took fire
out of them, and
offered a sacrifice
after two years, and
set forth incense, and
lights, and
shewbread.

10=4 When that was
done, they fell flat
down, and besought
the Lord that they
might come no more

2 MACCABEES

into such troubles;
but if they sinned any
more against him,
that he himself would
chasten them with
mercy, and that they
might not be
delivered unto the
blasphemous and
barbarous nations.

10=5 Now upon the
same day that the
strangers profaned
the temple, on the
very same day it was

2 MACCABEES

**cleansed again, even
the five and twentieth
day of the same
month, which is
Casleu.**

**10:6 And they kept
the eight days with
gladness, as in the
feast of the
tabernacles,
remembering that not
long afore they had
held the feast of the
tabernacles, when as
they wandered in the**

2 MACCABEES

**mountains and dens
like beasts.**

10:7 Therefore they
bare branches, and
fair boughs, and
palms also, and sang
psalms unto him that
had given them good
success in cleansing
his place.

10:8 They ordained
also by a common
statute and decree,
That every year those
days should be kept

2 MACCABEES

of the whole nation of
the Jews.

10=9 And this was the
end of Antiochus,
called Epiphanes.

10=10 Now will we
declare the acts of
Antiochus Eupator,
who was the son of
this wicked man,
gathering briefly the
calamities of the
wars.

10=11 So when he
was come to the

2 MACCABEES

**crown, he set one
Lysias over the affairs
of his realm, and
appointed him his
chief governor of
Celosyria and
Phenice.**

10: 12 For Ptolemeus,
that was called
Macron, choosing
rather to do justice
unto the Jews for the
wrong that had been
done unto them,
endeavoured to

2 MACCABEES

**continue peace with
them.**

10= 13 Whereupon
being accused of the
king's friends before
Eupator, and called
traitor at every word
because he had left
Cyprus, that
Philometor had
committed unto him,
and departed to
Antiochus Epiphanes,
and seeing that he
was in no honourable

2 MACCABEES

place, he was so discouraged, that he poisoned himself and died.

10=14 But when Gorgias was governor of the holds, he hired soldiers, and nourished war continually with the Jews:

10=15 And therewithall the Idumeans, having gotten into their

2 MACCABEES

hands the most
commodious holds,
kept the Jews
occupied, and
receiving those that
were banished from
Jerusalem, they went
about to nourish war.

10:16 Then they that
were with Maccabeus
made supplication,
and besought God
that he would be their
helper; and so they
ran with violence

2 MACCABEES

**upon the strong holds
of the Idumeans,**

10=17 And

**assaulting them
strongly, they won
the holds, and kept
off all that fought
upon the wall, and
slew all that fell into
their hands, and killed
no fewer than twenty
thousand.**

**10=18 And because
certain, who were no
less than nine**

2 MACCABEES

thousand, were fled together into two very strong castles, having all manner of things convenient to sustain the siege,

10=19 Maccabeus left Simon and Joseph, and Zaccheus also, and them that were with him, who were enough to besiege them, and departed himself unto those

2 MACCABEES

places which more
needed his help.

10=20 Now they that
were with Simon,
being led with
covetousness, were
persuaded for money
through certain of
those that were in the
castle, and took
seventy thousand
drachms, and let
some of them escape.

10=21 But when it
was told Maccabeus

2 MACCABEES

what was done, he called the governors of the people together, and accused those men, that they had sold their brethren for money, and set their enemies free to fight against them.

10=22 So he slew those that were found traitors, and immediately took the two castles.

2 MACCABEES

10=23 And having good success with his weapons in all things he took in hand, he slew in the two holds more than twenty thousand.

10=24 Now Timotheus, whom the Jews had overcome before, when he had gathered a great multitude of foreign forces, and horses out of Asia not a few,

2 MACCABEES

came as though he would take Jewry by force of arms.

10=25 But when he drew near, they that were with Maccabeus turned themselves to pray unto God, and sprinkled earth upon their heads, and girded their loins with sackcloth,

10=26 And fell down at the foot of the altar, and besought him to

2 MACCABEES

**be merciful to them,
and to be an enemy to
their enemies, and an
adversary to their
adversaries, as the
law declareth.**

10-27 So after the
prayer they took their
weapons, and went
on further from the
city: and when they
drew near to their
enemies, they kept by
themselves.

2 MACCABEES

10=28 Now the sun being newly risen, they joined both together; the one part having together with their virtue their refuge also unto the Lord for a pledge of their success and victory: the other side making their rage leader of their battle.

10=29 But when the battle waxed strong, there appeared unto

2 MACCABEES

the enemies from
heaven five comely
men upon horses,
with bridles of gold,
and two of them led
the Jews,

10=30 And took
Maccabeus betwixt
them, and covered
him on every side
weapons, and kept
him safe, but shot
arrows and lightnings
against the enemies:
so that being

2 MACCABEES

**confounded with
blindness, and full of
trouble, they were
killed.**

10=31 And there
were slain of footmen
twenty thousand and
five hundred, and six
hundred horsemen.

10=32 As for
Timotheus himself, he
fled into a very strong
hold, called Gawra,
where Chereas was
governor.

2 MACCABEES

10=33 But they that were with Maccabeus laid siege against the fortress courageously four days.

10=34 And they that were within, trusting to the strength of the place, blasphemed exceedingly, and uttered wicked words.

10=35 Nevertheless upon the fifth day early twenty young men of Maccabeus'

2 MACCABEES

**company, inflamed
with anger because of
the blasphemies,
assaulted the wall
manly, and with a
fierce courage killed
all that they met
withal.**

10=36 Others likewise
ascending after them,
whiles they were
busied with them that
were within, burnt the
towers, and kindling
fires burnt the

2 MACCABEES

blasphemers alive;
and others broke
open the gates, and,
having received in the
rest of the army, took
the city,

10=37 And killed
Timotheus, that was
hid in a certain pit,
and Chereas his
brother, with
Apollophanes.

10=38 When this was
done, they praised
the Lord with psalms

2 MACCABEES

**and thanksgiving,
who had done so
great things for Israel,
and given them the
victory.**

2 MACCABEES 11

11:1 Not long after the, Lysias the king's protector and cousin, who also managed the affairs, took sore displeasure for the things that were done.

11:2 And when he had gathered about fourscore thousand with all the horsemen,

2 MACCABEES

he came against the
Jews, thinking to
make the city an
habitation of the
Gentiles,

11:3 And to make a
gain of the temple, as
of the other chapels
of the heathen, and to
set the high
priesthood to sale
every year:

11:4 Not at all
considering the
power of God but

2 MACCABEES

**puffed up with his ten
thousands of
footmen, and his
thousands of
horsemen, and his
fourscore elephants.**

11-5 So he came to
Judea, and drew near
to Bethsura, which
was a strong town,
but distant from
Jerusalem about five
furlongs, and he laid
sore siege unto it.

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11:6 Now when they that were with Maccabeus heard that he besieged the holds, they and all the people with lamentation and tears besought the Lord that he would send a good angel to deliver Israel.

11:7 Then Maccabeus himself first of all took weapons, exhorting the other

2 MACCABEES

that they would
jeopard themselves
together with him to
help their brethren:
so they went forth
together with a willing
mind.

11:8 And as they
were at Jerusalem,
there appeared before
them on horseback
one in white clothing,
shaking his armour of
gold.

11:9 Then they

2 MACCABEES

praised the merciful God all together, and took heart, insomuch that they were ready not only to fight with men, but with most cruel beasts, and to pierce through walls of iron.

11: 10 Thus they marched forward in their armour, having an helper from heaven: for the Lord was merciful unto

2 MACCABEES

them

11: 11 And giving a charge upon their enemies like lions, they slew eleven thousand footmen, and sixteen hundred horsemen, and put all the other to flight.

11: 12 Many of them also being wounded escaped naked; and Lysias himself fled away shamefully, and so escaped.

2 MACCABEES

11: 13 Who, as he
was a man of
understanding,
casting with himself
what loss he had had,
and considering that
the Hebrews could
not be overcome,
because the Almighty
God helped them, he
sent unto them,
11: 14 And persuaded
them to agree to all
reasonable
conditions, and

2 MACCABEES

**promised that he
would persuade the
king that he must
needs be a friend
unto them.**

**11: 15 Then
Maccabeus
consented to all that
Lysias desired, being
careful of the
common good; and
whatsoever
Maccabeus wrote
unto Lysias
concerning the Jews,**

2 MACCABEES

the king granted it.

11:16 For there were letters written unto the Jews from Lysias to this effect: Lysias unto the people of the Jews sendeth greeting:

11:17 John and Absolom, who were sent from you, delivered me the petition subscribed, and made request for the performance of

2 MACCABEES

the contents thereof.

11:18 Therefore what things soever were meet to be reported to the king, I have declared them, and he hath granted as much as might be.

11:19 And if then ye will keep yourselves loyal to the state, hereafter also will I endeavour to be a means of your good.

11:20 But of the

2 MACCABEES

particulars I have
given order both to
these and the other
that came from me, to
commune with you.

11:21 Fare ye well.

The hundred and
eight and fortieth
year, the four and
twentieth day of the
month

Dioscorinthus.

11:22 Now the king's
letter contained these
words: King

2 MACCABEES

**Antiochus unto his
brother Lysias
sendeth greeting:**

11:23 Since our
father is translated
unto the gods, our
will is, that they that
are in our realm live
quietly, that every one
may attend upon his
own affairs.

11:24 We understand
also that the Jews
would not consent to
our father, for to be

2 MACCABEES

brought unto the custom of the Gentiles, but had rather keep their own manner of living: for the which cause they require of us, that we should suffer them to live after their own laws.

11:25 Wherefore our mind is, that this nation shall be in rest, and we have determined to restore

2 MACCABEES

**them their temple,
that they may live
according to the
customs of their
forefathers.**

11:26 **Thou shalt do
well therefore to send
unto them, and grant
them peace, that
when they are
certified of our mind,
they may be of good
comfort, and ever go
cheerfully about their
own affairs.**

2 MACCABEES

11:27 And the letter of the king unto the nation of the Jews was after this manner: King Antiochus sendeth greeting unto the council, and the rest of the Jews:

11:28 If ye fare well, we have our desire; we are also in good health.

11:29 Menelaus declared unto us, that

2 MACCABEES

**your desire was to
return home, and to
follow your own
business:**

11:30 Wherefore they
that will depart shall
have safe conduct till
the thirtieth day of
Xanthicus with
security.

11:31 And the Jews
shall use their own
kind of meats and
laws, as before; and
none of them any

2 MACCABEES

manner of ways shall
be molested for
things ignorantly
done.

11:32 I have sent
also Menelaus, that
he may comfort you.

11:33 Fare ye well. In
the hundred forty and
eighth year, and the
fifteenth day of the
month Xanthicus.

11:34 The Romans
also sent unto them a
letter containing

2 MACCABEES

**these words: Quintus
Memmius and Titus
Manlius,
ambassadors of the
Romans, send
greeting unto the
people of the Jews.**

11:35 Whatsoever
Lysias the king's
cousin hath granted,
therewith we also are
well pleased.

11:36 But touching
such things as he
judged to be referred

2 MACCABEES

to the king, after ye
have advised thereof,
send one forthwith,
that we may declare
as it is convenient for
you: for we are now
going to Antioch.

11:37 Therefore send
some with speed, that
we may know what is
your mind.

11:38 Farewell.
This hundred and
eight
and fortieth year,

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**the fifteenth day of
the month Xanthicus.**

2 MACCABEES 12

12:1 When these covenants were made, Lysias went unto the king, and the Jews were about their husbandry.

12:2 But of the governours of several places, Timotheus, and Apollonius the son of Genneus, also Hieronymus, and Demophon, and

2 MACCABEES

**beside them Nicanor
the governor of
Cyprus, would not
suffer them to be
quiet and live in
peace.**

**12:3 The men of
Joppa also did such
an ungodly deed:
they prayed the Jews
that dwelt among
them to go with their
wives and children
into the boats which
they had prepared, as**

2 MACCABEES

though they had
meant them no hurt.

12=4 Who accepted of
it according to the
common decree of
the city, as being
desirous to live in
peace, and
suspecting nothing:
but when they were
gone forth into the
deep, they drowned
no less than two
hundred of them.

12=5 When Judas

2 MACCABEES

heard of this cruelty
done unto his
countrymen, he
commanded those
that were with him to
make them ready.

12:6 And calling upon
God the righteous
Judge, he came
against those
murderers of his
brethren, and burnt
the haven by night,
and set the boats on
fire, and those that

2 MACCABEES

fled thither he slew.

12:7 And when the town was shut up, he went backward, as if he would return to root out all them of the city of Joppa.

12:8 But when he heard that the Jamnites were minded to do in like manner unto the Jews that dwelt among them,

12:9 He came upon

2 MACCABEES

the Jamnites also by night, and set fire on the haven and the navy, so that the light of the fire was seen at Jerusalem two hundred and forty furlongs off.

12: 10 Now when they were gone from thence nine furlongs in their journey toward Timotheus, no fewer than five thousand men on foot

2 MACCABEES

and five hundred
horsemen of the
Arabians set upon
him.

12: **11** Whereupon
there was a very sore
battle; but Judas' side
by the help of God
got the victory; so
that the Nomades of
Arabia, being
overcome, besought
Judas for peace,
promising both to
give him cattle, and to

2 MACCABEES

pleasure him
otherwise.

12: **12** Then Judas,
thinking indeed that
they would be
profitable in many
things, granted them
peace: whereupon
they shook hands,
and so they departed
to their tents.

12: **13** He went also
about to make a
bridge to a certain
strong city, which

2 MACCABEES

was fenced about
with walls, and
inhabited by people
of divers countries;
and the name of it
was Caspis.

12: **14** But they that
were within it put
such trust in the
strength of the walls
and provision of
victuals, that they
behaved themselves
rudely toward them
that were with Judas,

2 MACCABEES

railing and
blaspheming, and
uttering such words
as were not to be
spoken.

12: 15 Wherefore
Judas with his
company, calling
upon the great Lord
of the world (who
without rams or
engines of war did
cast down Jericho in
the time of Joshua)
gave a fierce assault

2 MACCABEES

against the walls,
12: 16 And took the
city by the will of
God, and made
unspeakable
slaughters, insomuch
that a lake two
furlongs broad near
adjoining thereunto,
being filled full, was
seen running with
blood.

12: 17 Then departed
they from thence
seven hundred and

2 MACCABEES

**fifty furlongs, and
came to Characa unto
the Jews that are
called Tubieni.**

12: 18 But as for
Timotheus, they
found him not in the
places: for before he
had dispatched any
thing, he departed
from thence, having
left a very strong
garrison in a certain
hold.

12: 19 Howbeit

2 MACCABEES

**Dositheus and
Sosipater, who were
of Maccabeus'
captains, went forth,
and slew those that
Timotheus had left in
the fortress, above
ten thousand men.**

**12:20 And
Maccabeus ranged
his army by bands,
and set them over the
bands, and went
against Timotheus,
who had about him an**

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**hundred and twenty
thousand men of foot,
and two thousand,
and five hundred
horsemen.**

12:21 Now when
Timotheus had
knowledge of Judas'
coming, he sent the
women and children
and the other
baggage unto a
fortress called
Carnion: for the town
was hard to besiege,

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and uneasy to come unto, by reason of the straitness of all the places.

12=22 But when Judas his first band came in sight, the enemies (being smitten with fear and terror through the appearing of him who seeth all things) fled amain, one running into this way, another that way, so as that

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they were often hurt
of their own men, and
wounded with the
points of their own
swords.

12:23 Judas also was
very earnest in
pursuing them, killing
those wicked
wretches, of whom he
slew about thirty
thousand men.

12:24 Moreover
Timotheus himself fell
into the hands of

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**Dositheus and
Sosipater, whom he
besought with much
craft to let him go
with his life, because
he had many of the
Jews' parents, and
the brethren of some
of them, who, if they
put him to death,
should not be
regarded.**

12:25 So when he
had assured them
with many words that

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he would restore them without hurt, according to the agreement, they let him go for the saving of their brethren.

12:26 Then Maccabeus marched forth to Carnion, and to the temple of Atargatis, and there he slew five and twenty thousand persons.

12:27 And after he

2 MACCABEES

had put to flight and
destroyed them,
Judas removed the
host toward Ephron, a
strong city, wherein
Lysias abode, and a
great multitude of
divers nations, and
the strong young men
kept the walls, and
defended them
mightily: wherein also
was great provision
of engines and darts.
12:28 But when

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Judas and his company had called upon Almighty God (who with his power breaketh the strength of his enemies) they won the city, and slew twenty and five thousand of them that were within,

12=29 From thence they departed to Scythopolis, which lieth six hundred furlongs from

2 MACCABEES

Jerusalem,

12:30 But when the Jews that dwelt there had testified that the Scythopolitans dealt lovingly with them, and entreated them kindly in the time of their adversity;

12:31 They gave them thanks, desiring them to be friendly still unto them: and so they came to Jerusalem, the feast

2 MACCABEES

of the weeks
approaching.

12:32 And after the
feast, called
Pentecost, they went
forth against Gorgias
the governor of
Idumea,

12:33 Who came out
with three thousand
men of foot and four
hundred horsemen.

12:34 And it
happened that in their
fighting together a

2 MACCABEES

**few of the Jews were
slain.**

12=35 At which time
Dositheus, one of
Bacenor's company,
who was on
horseback, and a
strong man, was still
upon Gorgias, and
taking hold of his
coat drew him by
force; and when he
would have taken that
cursed man alive, a
horseman of Thracia

2 MACCABEES

coming upon him
smote off his
shoulder, so that
Gorgias fled unto
Marisa.

12:36 Now when they
that were with
Gorgias had fought
long, and were weary,
Judas called upon the
Lord, that he would
shew himself to be
their helper and
leader of the battle.

12:37 And with that

2 MACCABEES

he began in his own language, and sung psalms with a loud voice, and rushing unawares upon Gorgias' men, he put them to flight.

12:38 So Judas gathered his host, and came into the city of Odollam, And when the seventh day came, they purified themselves (as the custom was) and kept

2 MACCABEES

the sabbath in the
same place.

12:39 And upon the
day following, as the
use had been, Judas
and his company
came to take up the
bodies of them that
were slain, and to
bury them with their
kinsmen in their
fathers' graves.

12:40 Now under the
coats of every one
that was slain they

2 MACCABEES

**found things
consecrated to the
idols of the Jamnites,
which is forbidden
the Jews by the law.
Then every man saw
that this was the
cause wherefore they
were slain.**

12:41 All men
therefore praising the
Lord, the righteous
Judge, who had
opened the things
that were hid,

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12:42 Betook
themselves unto
prayer, and besought
him that the sin
committed might
wholly be put out of
remembrance.
Besides, that noble
Judas exhorted the
people to keep
themselves from sin,
forsomuch as they
saw before their eyes
the things that came
to pass for the sins of

2 MACCABEES

those that were slain.

12:43 And when he had made a gathering throughout the company to the sum of two thousand drachms of silver, he sent it to Jerusalem to offer a sin offering, doing therein very well and honestly, in that he was mindful of the resurrection:

12:44 (For if he had not hoped that they

2 MACCABEES

that were slain should have risen again, it had been superfluous and vain to pray for the dead.)

12:45 And also in that he perceived that there was great favour laid up for those that died godly, it was an holy and good thought.

Whereupon he made a reconciliation for the dead, that they

2 MACCABEES

**might be delivered
from sin.**

2 MACCABEES 13

13: 1 In the hundred
forty and ninth year it
was told Judas, that
Antiochus Eupator
was coming with a
great power into
Judea,

13: 2 And with him
Lysias his protector,
and ruler of his
affairs, having either
of them a Grecian
power of footmen, an

2 MACCABEES

**hundred and ten
thousand, and
horsemen five
thousand and three
hundred, and
elephants two and
twenty, and three
hundred chariots
armed with hooks.**

13:3 Menelaus also
joined himself with
them, and with great
dissimulation
encouraged
Antiochus, not for the

2 MACCABEES

safeguard of the country, but because he thought to have been made governor.

13=4 But the King of kings moved Antiochus' mind against this wicked wretch, and Lysias informed the king that this man was the cause of all mischief, so that the king commanded to bring him unto Berea, and

2 MACCABEES

to put him to death,
as the manner is in
that place.

13:5 Now there was in
that place a tower of
fifty cubits high, full
of ashes, and it had a
round instrument
which on every side
hanged down into the
ashes.

13:6 And whosoever
was condemned of
sacrilege, or had
committed any other

2 MACCABEES

**grievous crime, there
did all men thrust him
unto death.**

13:7 Such a death it
happened that wicked
man to die, not
having so much as
burial in the earth;
and that most justly:

13:8 For inasmuch as
he had committed
many sins about the
altar, whose fire and
ashes were holy, he
received his death in

2 MACCABEES

ashes.

13:9 Now the king came with a barbarous and haughty mind to do far worse to the Jews, than had been done in his father's time.

13:10 Which things when Judas perceived, he commanded the multitude to call upon the Lord night and day, that if ever at any

2 MACCABEES

other time, he would now also help them, being at the point to be put from their law, from their country, and from the holy temple:

13: 11 And that he would not suffer the people, that had even now been but a little refreshed, to be in subjection to the blasphemous nations.
13: 12 So when they

2 MACCABEES

had all done this together, and besought the merciful Lord with weeping and fasting, and lying flat upon the ground three days long, Judas, having exhorted them, commanded they should be in a readiness.

13: **13** And Judas, being apart with the elders, determined,

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before the king's host
should enter into
Judea, and get the
city, to go forth and
try the matter in fight
by the help of the
Lord.

13: **14** So when he had
committed all to the
Creator of the world,
and exhorted his
soldiers to fight
manfully, even unto
death, for the laws,
the temple, the city,

2 MACCABEES

**the country, and the
commonwealth, he
camped by Modin:**

13: 15 And having
given the watchword
to them that were
about him, Victory is
of God; with the most
valiant and choice
young men he went in
into the king's tent by
night, and slew in the
camp about four
thousand men, and
the chiefest of the

2 MACCABEES

elephants, with all that were upon him.

13: 16 And at last they filled the camp with fear and tumult, and departed with good success.

13: 17 This was done in the break of the day, because the protection of the Lord did help him.

13: 18 Now when the king had taken a taste of the manliness of

2 MACCABEES

the Jews, he went
about to take the
holds by policy,
13: 19 And marched
toward Bethsura,
which was a strong
hold of the Jews: but
he was put to flight,
failed, and lost of his
men:

13: 20 For Judas had
conveyed unto them
that were in it such
things as were
necessary.

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13:21 But Rhodocus, who was in the Jews' host, disclosed the secrets to the enemies; therefore he was sought out, and when they had gotten him, they put him in prison.

13:22 The king treated with them in Bethsum the second time, gave his hand, took their's, departed, fought with Judas,

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**was overcome;
13:23** Heard that Philip, who was left over the affairs in Antioch, was desperately bent, confounded, intreated the Jews, submitted himself, and sware to all equal conditions, agreed with them, and offered sacrifice, honoured the temple, and dealt kindly with the place,

2 MACCABEES

13:24 And accepted well of Maccabeus, made him principal governor from Ptolemais unto the Gerrhenians;

13:25 Came to Ptolemais: the people there were grieved for the covenants; for they stormed, because they would make their covenants void:

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13:26 Lysias went up to the judgment seat, said as much as could be in defence of the cause, persuaded, pacified, made them well affected, returned to Antioch. Thus it went touching the king's coming and departing.

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14

14: 1 After three years was Judas informed, that Demetrius the son of Seleucus, having entered by the haven of Tripolis with a great power and navy,

14: 2 Had taken the country, and killed

2 MACCABEES

**Antiochus, and
Lysias his protector.**

14=3 Now one

**Alcimus, who had
been high priest, and
had defiled himself
wilfully in the times of
their mingling with
the Gentiles, seeing
that by no means he
could save himself,
nor have any more
access to the holy
altar,**

14=4 Came to king

2 MACCABEES

**Demetrius in the
hundred and one and
fiftieth year,
presenting unto him a
crown of gold, and a
palm, and also of the
boughs which were
used solemnly in the
temple: and so that
day he held his
peace.**

14=5 Howbeit having
gotten opportunity to
further his foolish
enterprize, and being

2 MACCABEES

called into counsel by Demetrius, and asked how the Jews stood affected, and what they intended, he answered thereunto:

14:6 Those of the Jews that he called Assideans, whose captain is Judas Maccabeus, nourish war and are seditious, and will not let the rest be in peace.

14:7 Therefore I,

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being deprived of
mine ancestors'
honour, I mean the
high priesthood, am
now come hither:

14:8 First, verily for
the unfeigned care I
have of things
pertaining to the king;
and secondly, even
for that I intend the
good of mine own
countrymen: for all
our nation is in no
small misery through

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the unadvised dealing
of them aforesaid.

14:9 Wherefore, O
king, seeing knowest
all these things, be
careful for the
country, and our
nation, which is
pressed on every
side, according to the
clemency that thou
readily shewest unto
all.

14:10 For as long as
Judas liveth, it is not

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possible that the state
should be quiet.

14: 11 This was no
sooner spoken of
him, but others of the
king's friends, being
maliciously set
against Judas, did
more incense
Demetrius.

14: 12 And forthwith
calling Nicanor, who
had been master of
the elephants, and
making him governor

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over Judea, he sent
him forth,

14: 13 Commanding
him to slay Judas,
and to scatter them
that were with him,
and to make Alcimus
high priest of the
great temple.

14: 14 Then the
heathen, that had fled
out of Judea from
Judas, came to
Nicanor by flocks,
thinking the harm and

2 MACCABEES

**calamities of the Jews
to be their welfare.**

14=15 Now when the
Jews heard of
Nicanor's coming,
and that the heathen
were up against them,
they cast earth upon
their heads, and made
supplication to him
that had established
his people for ever,
and who always
helpeth his portion
with manifestation of

2 MACCABEES

his presence.

14: 16 So at the commandment of the captain they removed straightways from thence, and came near unto them at the town of Dessau.

14: 17 Now Simon, Judas' brother, had joined battle with Nicanor, but was somewhat discomfited through the sudden silence of

2 MACCABEES

his enemies.

14: 18 Nevertheless Nicanor, hearing of the manliness of them that were with Judas, and the courageousness that they had to fight for their country, durst not try the matter by the sword.

14: 19 Wherefore he sent Posidonius, and Theodotus, and Mattathias, to make

2 MACCABEES

peace.

14=20 So when they
had taken long
advisement
thereupon, and the
captain had made the
multitude acquainted
therewith, and it
appeared that they
were all of one mind,
they consented to the
covenants,

14=21 And appointed
a day to meet in
together by

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themselves: and
when the day came,
and stools were set
for either of them,

14:22 Ludas placed
armed men ready in
convenient places,
lest some treachery
should be suddenly
practised by the
enemies: so they
made a peaceable
conference.

14:23 Now Nicanor
abode in Jerusalem,

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and did no hurt, but
sent away the people
that came flocking
unto him.

14:24 And he would
not willingly have
Judas out of his
sight: for he love the
man from his heart

14:25 He prayed him
also to take a wife,
and to beget children:
so he married, was
quiet, and took part of
this life.

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14:26 But Alcimus, perceiving the love that was betwixt them, and considering the covenants that were made, came to Demetrius, and told him that Nicanor was not well affected toward the state; for that he had ordained Judas, a traitor to his realm, to be the king's successor.

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14:27 Then the king being in a rage, and provoked with the accusations of the most wicked man, wrote to Nicanor, signifying that he was much displeased with the covenants, and commanding him that he should send Maccabeus prisoner in all haste unto Antioch.

14:28 When this

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came to Nicanor's hearing, he was much confounded in himself, and took it grievously that he should make void the articles which were agreed upon, the man being in no fault.

14=29 But because there was no dealing against the king, he watched his time to accomplish this thing by policy.

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14:30 Notwithstanding, when Maccabeus saw that Nicanor began to be churlish unto him, and that he entreated him more roughly than he was wont, perceiving that such sour behaviour came not of good, he gathered together not a few of his men, and withdrew himself from Nicanor.

14:31 But the other,

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knowing that he was notably prevented by Judas' policy, came into the great and holy temple, and commanded the priests, that were offering their usual sacrifices, to deliver him the man.

14:32 And when they swore that they could not tell where the man was whom he sought,

14:33 He stretched

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out his right hand
toward the temple,
and made an oath in
this manner: If ye will
not deliver me Judas
as a prisoner, I will
lay this temple of God
even with the ground,
and I will break down
the altar, and erect a
notable temple unto
Bacchus.

14:34 After these
words he departed.
Then the priests lifted

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up their hands toward
heaven, and besought
him that was ever a
defender of their
nation, saying in this
manner;

14:35 Thou, O Lord
of all things, who hast
need of nothing, wast
pleased that the
temple of thine
habitation should be
among us:

14:36 Therefore now,
O holy Lord of all

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holiness, keep this house ever undefiled, which lately was cleansed, and stop every unrighteous mouth.

14:37 Now was there accused unto Nicanor one Razis, one of the elders of Jerusalem, a lover of his countrymen, and a man of very good report, who for his kindness was called a

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father of the Jews.

14:38 For in the former times, when they mingled not themselves with the Gentiles, he had been accused of Judaism, and did boldly jeopard his body and life with all vehemency for the religion of the Jews.

14:39 So Nicanor, willing to declare the hate that he bare unto

2 MACCABEES

the Jews, sent above
five hundred men of
war to take him:

14:40 For he thought
by taking him to do
the Jews much hurt.

14:41 Now when the
multitude would have
taken the tower, and
violently broken into
the outer door, and
bade that fire should
be brought to burn it,
he being ready to be
taken on every side

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fell upon his sword;

14:42 Choosing
rather to die manfully,
than to come into the
hands of the wicked,
to be abused
otherwise than
beseemed his noble
birth:

14:43 But missing
his stroke through
haste, the multitude
also rushing within
the doors, he ran
boldly up to the wall,

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and cast himself
down
manfully among the
thickest of them.

14:44 But they
quickly giving back,
and a space being
made, he fell down
into the midst of the
void place.

14:45 Nevertheless,
while there was yet
breath within him,
being inflamed with
anger, he rose up;

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**and though his blood
gushed out like
spouts of water, and
his wounds were
grievous, yet he ran
through the midst of
the throng; and
standing upon a
steep rock,**

14:46 When
as his blood was now
quite gone,
he plucked out his
bowels, and taking
them in both his

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**hands, he cast them
upon the throng, and
calling upon
the Lord of life and
spirit to restore him
those again, he thus
died.**

2 MACCABEES 15

15: 1 But Nicanor, hearing that Judas and his company were in the strong places about Samaria, resolved without any danger to set upon them on the sabbath day.

15: 2 Nevertheless the Jews that were compelled to go with him said, O destroy

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not so cruelly and
barbarously, but give
honour to that day,
which he, that seeth
all things, hath
honoured with
holiness above all
other days.

15:3 Then the most
ungracious wretch
demanded, if there
were a Mighty one in
heaven, that had
commanded the
sabbath day to be

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kept.

15:4 And when they said, There is in heaven a living Lord, and mighty, who commanded the seventh day to be kept:

15:5 Then said the other, And I also am mighty upon earth, and I command to take arms, and to do the king's business. Yet he obtained not to

2 MACCABEES

have his wicked will
done.

15:6 So Nicanor in
exceeding pride and
haughtiness
determined to set up
a publick monument
of his victory over
Judas and them that
were with him.

15:7 But Maccabeus
had ever sure
confidence that the
Lord would help him:

15:8 Wherefore he

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**exhorted his people
not to fear the coming
of the heathen
against them, but to
remember the help
which in former times
they had received
from heaven, and now
to expect the victory
and aid, which should
come unto them from
the Almighty.**

15:9 And so
comforting them out
of the law and the

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prophets, and withal putting them in mind of the battles that they won afore, he made them more cheerful.

15: 10 And when he had stirred up their minds, he gave them their charge, shewing them therewithall the falsehood of the heathen, and the breach of oaths.

15: 11 Thus he armed

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one of them, not so much with defence of shields and spears, as with comfortable and good words: and beside that, he told them a dream worthy to be believed, as if it had been so indeed, which did not a little rejoice them.

15= 12 And this was his vision: That Onias, who had been high priest, a virtuous

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and a good man,
reverend in
conversation, gentle
in condition, well
spoken also, and
exercised from a child
in all points of virtue,
holding up his hands
prayed for the whole
body of the Jews.

15: **13** This done, in
like manner there
appeared a man with
gray hairs, and
exceeding glorious,

2 MACCABEES

who was of a
wonderful and
excellent majesty.

15: 14 Then Onias
answered, saying,
This is a lover of the
brethren, who prayeth
much for the people,
and for the holy city,
to wit, Jeremias the
prophet of God.

15: 15 Whereupon
Jeremias holding
forth his right hand
gave to Judas a

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sword of gold, and in giving it spake thus,
15: 16 Take this holy sword, a gift from God, with the which thou shalt wound the adversaries.

15: 17 Thus being well comforted by the words of Judas, which were very good, and able to stir them up to valour, and to encourage the hearts of the young

2 MACCABEES

men, they determined not to pitch camp, but courageously to set upon them, and manfully to try the matter by conflict, because the city and the sanctuary and the temple were in danger.

15: 18 For the care that they took for their wives, and their children, their brethren, and folks,

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was in least account with them: but the greatest and principal fear was for the holy temple.

15: 19 Also they that were in the city took not the least care, being troubled for the conflict abroad.

15: 20 And now, when as all looked what should be the trial, and the enemies were already come near,

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**and the army was set
in array, and the
beasts conveniently
placed, and the
horsemen set in
wings,**

**15:21 Maccabeus
seeing the coming of
the multitude, and the
divers preparations of
armour, and the
fierceness of the
beasts, stretched out
his hands toward
heaven, and called**

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upon the Lord that
worketh wonders,
knowing that victory
cometh not by arms,
but even as it
seemeth good to him,
he giveth it to such as
are worthy:

15:22 Therefore in
his prayer he said
after this manner; O
Lord, thou didst send
thine angel in the time
of Ezekias king of
Judea, and didst slay

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in the host of
Sennacherib an
hundred fourscore
and five thousand:

15:23 Wherefore now
also, O Lord of
heaven, send a good
angel before us for a
fear and dread unto
them;

15:24 And through
the might of thine arm
let those be stricken
with terror, that come
against thy holy

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people to blaspheme.

And he ended thus.

15:25 Then Nicanor
and they that were
with him came
forward with trumpets
and songs.

15:26 But Judas and
his company
encountered the
enemies with
invocation and
prayer.

15:27 So that fighting
with their hands, and

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praying unto God
with their hearts, they
slew no less than
thirty and five
thousand men: for
through the
appearance of God
they were greatly
cheered.

15:28 Now when the
battle was done,
returning again with
joy, they knew that
Nicanor lay dead in
his harness.

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15:29 Then they made a great shout and a noise, praising the Almighty in their own language.

15:30 And Judas, who was ever the chief defender of the citizens both in body and mind, and who continued his love toward his countrymen all his life, commanded to strike off Nicanor's

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head, and his hand
with his shoulder, and
bring them to
Jerusalem.

15:31 So when he
was there, and called
them of his nation
together, and set the
priests before the
altar, he sent for them
that were of the
tower,

15:32 And shewed
them vile Nicanor's
head, and the hand of

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that blasphemer,
which with proud
brags he had
stretched out against
the holy temple of the
Almighty.

15=33 And when he
had cut out the
tongue of that
ungodly Nicanor, he
commanded that they
should give it by
pieces unto the fowls,
and hang up the
reward of his

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madness before the
temple.

15:34 So every man
praised toward the
heaven the glorious
Lord, saying, Blessed
be he that hath kept
his own place
undefiled.

15:35 He hanged also
Nicanor's head upon
the tower, an evident
and manifest sign
unto all of the help of
the Lord.

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15:36 And they ordained all with a common decree in no case to let that day pass without solemnity, but to celebrate the thirtieth day of the twelfth month, which in the Syrian tongue is called Adar, the day before Mardocheus' day.

15:37 Thus went it with Nicanor: and

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from that time forth
the Hebrews had the
city in their power.
And here will I make
an end.

15:38 And if I have
done well, and as is
fitting the story, it is
that which I desired:
but if slenderly and
meanly, it is that
which I could attain
unto.

15:39 For as it is
hurtful

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**to drink wine or water
alone; and as wine
mingled with water is
pleasant,
and delighteth the
taste: even so speech
finely framed
delighteth
the ears of them that
read the story.
And here
shall be
an end.**

2 MACCABEES

